

Air Pouch

HUL-A-300

~~SECRET/RYBAT/FBSUCCESS~~

24 March 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala

LINCOLN

KUGOWN

Discussions at LINCOLN with Earl N. BANNISTER

1. In discussions at LINCOLN, the following proposed KUGOWN actions were explored:
2. ESSENCE—The ESSENCE Group is to be encouraged and sufficiently financed to provide for the continuing development of its branches throughout Guatemala. The ordinary members of these branches are to be used primarily for the distribution of propaganda. However, the travelling inspectors dispatched by ESSENCE are to select, in each local branch, two or three able, middle class or lower middle class agitators. These agitators, under the direction of the inspectors, are to arouse the population on local issues, such as the lack of adequate school facilities, the lack of pure drinking water, the low wage scale, the lack of paved streets, etc. For maximum effect, the agitators are to avoid vague and loose attacks on "Communism" and to confine themselves to those local and material issues that really arouse the public interest and indignation. Based on the response they get, the agitators are to organize signature campaigns, for petitions addressed to the government, requesting specific forms of assistance and relief for their respective areas. The tenor of these petitions should always be, at the outset, one of gratitude and admiration for the government; then the petition should go on to point out that the great and good benefits of the regime, although undeniably distributed in ample measure elsewhere, have for some reason not hit the particular community from which the petition is being sent; the petition should close with a statement to the effect that, in order to enable the particular community to play its full role in the country, it should now get as soon as possible pure water, paved streets, etc. These petitions should in every case also be mailed to the local newspapers and especially to the newspapers in Guatemala City.
3. Salesmen, particularly if a convenient association of salesmen exists, are to be used to spread the word about bad business conditions. They also are to encourage their contacts in the various towns to submit petitions for

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assistance and relief to the central government. If a salesman can succeed in initiating such a petition in one locality, he can then take it to another locality and encourage the people there to follow this example. These petitions should be sent, in copy, to newspapers.

4. The hoof and mouth disease campaign was discussed. It was agreed that the market women should first be enlisted in spreading the rumour. As a follow up, the ESSENCE phone team would be used to simulate calls from butcher shops, saying that their pork was not infected.

5. The previously recommended campaign of telephone calls to the maids of Army offices was discussed. It was agreed that the calls should include a command to the maid in question to do her part for Communism and should ask her to report to Communist Party Headquarters to pay her dues. As a follow up, one or more of the maids should be selected to protest this pressure, over the radio, if possible, or in the form of a letter to the newspapers.

6. The possibility of getting collaborators and pro-Communists to take out "reinsurance" against a change of regime was discussed. One proposal made was to have Oscar CONDE, anti-Communist radio broadcaster, to urge people to record, in a manner still to be determined, that they were anti-Communist. A proposal was also discussed to have a radio program from outside Guatemala urge the people to write to a given postal box number, under an alias for their safety, and to communicate the fact that they were anti-Communist. It is to be proposed, over this radio program, that the people keep a carbon copy of their letter so that when the time of reckoning comes, they can show the carbon.

7. It was agreed that special attention should be given to exploiting the greivances of public employees, such as the fact that pay is frequently in arrears and that pay scales are low.

8. The advisability of bringing George L. TRANGER to LINCOLN at an early opportunity was agreed upon. This proposal will be cleared with Jerome C. DUNBAR before implementation.

9. The possible uses for ESCOBILLA were discussed and it was agreed that, because of ESCOBILLA's background and access to only a limited group of people, more thought would have to be given to his most effective use.

10. The above should be brought to the attention of TRANGER and RAZMARA at an early opportunity, for their suggestions and for implementation by ESSENCE.

JCD/JTN/eaf
22 March 1954

JEROME C. DUNBAR

Distribution

- 2 - Guatemala
- 2 - Washington
- 3 - LINCOLN

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TO LABOR UNION